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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

13 Oct 1972

Admiral E. R. Zumwalt, Jr.
Chief of Naval Operations
Department of the Navy
Washington, D. C.

Dear Bud:

I read your letter of 26 September and its enclosure with a great deal of interest. You raised the question of "how much duplication was necessary" and that is a subject of continuing concern to me.

As you point out, there has been an increase in the amount of attention given to the collection and analysis of information on the Soviet Navy by components of the CIA over the last year or so. We have expanded the naval analytical elements in both the Office of Strategic Research and in the Office of Scientific Intelligence, and the CIA is now doing substantive intelligence analysis in the naval area much as it has been accustomed to doing for many years in other fields related to the Soviet ground, missile and air forces. This increase in CIA attention to the Soviet Navy is directly related to the increased importance at the national policy level of intelligence judgments on the capabilities and likely future development of the Soviet Navy.

I have examined the situation and I do not find that there is an undue degree of duplication between what your people do for you and what the CIA components are doing. Indeed, given the importance of the developing Soviet Navy, I believe the overlap that exists in the activities of our two organizations is useful. On intelligence matters of national level concern, it has been amply demonstrated that there is value in having more than one group involved in the analysis of available information.

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It is clear to me that as long as the Soviet Navy remains the object of national-level concern--in the Executive Branch as well as in the Congress--CIA will be responsible for continuing its analysis of Soviet naval capabilities and developments. I naturally expect your people and mine to be in close touch on the evidence and the emerging judgments but I don't expect them always to agree. The Navy's capacity for independent judgment on intelligence matters concerning the Soviet Navy is as important to you as CIA's capacity for independent judgment is to me.

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In addition, there are a number of requests for clearances for CIA analysts and contractor personnel still hanging fire and I would like to get those cleared up.

Let me assure you that we will see that Navy's needs for information from CIA sources are taken care of. If you will continue to ensure the availability of Navy-obtained data spelled out in your memorandum, I will personally appreciate it very much.

In closing, I want to extend to you and the officers and men of the U.S. Navy our congratulations on the occasion of the Navy's 197th birthday.

Sincerely,

Richard Helms
Richard Helms

SUBJECT: Letter to Admiral E. R. Zumwalt, Jr.

CONCUR:

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Deputy Director for Intelligence

11 Oct 72

Date

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Deputy Director for Science and Technology

11 Oct 72

Date

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